

Conference Report

‘caring, open and entertaining atmosphere’

Karina Golovko

Working Lives Research Institutes

k.golovko@londonmet.ac.uk

On the 12th of November 2010, I had the pleasure to attend, present my poster and chair a session at the first Postgraduate Research Student Conference at London Metropolitan University. The Conference was held at the Graduate Centre and it had been very well-organized by the Postgraduate Research Student Society. They not only provided for an excellent, concentrated space for the posters, lectures and presentations, but also for a caring, open and entertaining atmosphere for all those attending. The meeting of diverse PhD presentations in the social sciences, business and medical sciences, among others, brought about new hypotheses, fresh data and especially people sharing thoughts and findings during captivating presentations and lectures.

At the conference, there were four scheduled sessions, with parallel sessions running, divided by theme. I had an opportunity to chair a social science/business session, where I first had to introduce the presenters and their topics and then ensure that the session ran smoothly and within allocated time. The participants at the session were Maria Elfani and Ravshonbek Otojanov.

Maria Elfani delighted the audience with an insightful research question regarding national minimum wages. Her research will investigate the impact of national minimum wages on non-wages benefits of labour migrants using evidence from the UK. Rather than looking at the well-researched impact of minimum wages on employment, she is concentrating on the impact of minimum wages on the non-wage benefits provision such as training, health insurance, pension scheme and holiday pay. I am looking forward to seeing her end results.

Ravshonbek Otojanov presented a paper he worked on with other researchers titled Multi-Hubbert modelling with non-symmetric probability density functions: a new curve- fitting approach and its implications. The aim of this paper was to improve our understanding of conventional oil production behaviour by fitting various distribution curves to production profits and identifying the clusters of similar oil production patterns. He not only presented a very detailed and attention-grabbing report but he captivated the audience by comparing and contrasting oil production patterns in Middle East, former Soviet Union and the Europe.

At the end of the session both participants had about five minutes to answer questions and participate in a mini discussion with the audience.

The conference managed to capture a great number of interesting research topics and people across different subjects and faculties. There were a great number of poster presentations that were very eye-catching and contained some remarkable research questions. The conference presenters were also very open to ideas from fellow students and lecturers. Without a doubt the first London Metropolitan University Postgraduate Research Student Conference was a success. I had great pleasure in participating in the conference and hope to be involved in the next one.